





# CITY COLLEGE NEWS

January 1994

GEORGE BROWN COLLEG

**VOLUME 11. NO. 5** 

# New computer system allows changes: Students may register by phone, have more course choices by 1996

IN TWO YEARS OR SO, George Brown students could register by phone, get their marks from computer terminals, and have more choice in what courses they take and when they take them.

These dramatic changes in college organization, prompted by a new focus on student service and provincial education policies, are being made possible by a four-year, multi-million dollar computer project that started last year.

At the heart of the project lies a new student registration system, costing about \$900,000, that comes into use a year from now.

It replaces five independent computer systems that are currently used to track students at George Brown.

When fully in use and supported wide-spread changes in college operations, George Brown administrators say the new system will dramatically improve all college contacts with students – from their first phone enquiry until after they graduate.

In most cases the new system will eliminate the need for time-consuming – and error-producing – retyping of student information, and will ease the paper flow for all college staff who deal with students.

While planning for some of the system's proposed features is still underway, and they will probably not come into use for more than two years, it will be technically feasible for the college to offer:

Telephone registration for continuing education courses. Unlike most colleges, George Brown currently requires students to mail or fax in registration forms, or register in person. While the new system provides a "platform" for phone registration, the college would have to buy more software and hardware

- Much faster issuing of student marks – a process that now takes about two weeks.
- Instant access to marks and transcripts for students using terminals that resemble bank machines. Transcripts are currently only available from the Student Records Office at Casa Loma Campus.
- Connection of all college staff on an electronic mail network that will allow them to send other messages via computer rather than paper.
- Access by staff to computer networks such as Internet. These networks are widely used by staff at many colleges and universities to communicate with each other.
- The ability to register all students, and cumulatively track their progress, by

While sounding elementary, this last feature is likely to have the most profound impact on academic organization at George Brown. It holds the possibility of increased individual choice by students in deciding when they will take the courses they need to carn a diploma or certificate. It also could mean that students are offered a wider selection of electives in their programs.

If required changes are made in college organization and provincial funding, students at George Brown could ultimately earn diplomas with combinations of courses from other institutions, on-the-job learning, evening and

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# Here's how to fight the mid-winter blahs

By Peter Vamos

It's only mid-January but already the holiday season is a dim memory. The parties and family gatherings, the food, the sweets, the drinks, the late nights may be in the past – but now it feels like you're paying the price.

You feel depressed and let down – dark winter months stretch endlessly ahead. You've put on weight and your clothes feel tight and uncomfortable.

You're tired and dragged out. Apart from jumping on a southbound plane, there's no instant relief for your condition, but fitness and nutrition experts ar George Brown say there are easy ways of beating these midwinter blahs - that won't break the bank.

They say the blahs – that depressed, low-energy feeling – may be a certified medical condition that syndrome researchers call Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and it affects millions of people in northern climes.

Studies indicate that some people's energy levels may be directly affected by the amount of sunlight we get. In other words, in January and February, because the days are shorter and colder and we stay indoors for longer periods, we are not getting nearly as much direct sunlight as other, times of the year – and we get SAD

In the absence of direct sunlight, the body produces more of a hormone which decreases energy levels, says Beau Kent, a teacher in George Brown's fitness and lifestyle management program. "It is a function similar to that of a hibernating animal," he says.

But since we humans can't generally crawl into our and houses and apartments and sleep through the winter, we must find ways to stay energized through exercise, diet and limited exposure to the sun.

Since SAD is caused by a lack of sun, Kent suggests one way to battle the lethargy is to spend more time outdoors.

"Go for a 15 minute walk outside during your lunch hour," he says, "or better yet, go for an hour walk." It benefits you both by introducing sunlight to your sun-deprived body and keeps you active, another important element in battling energy loss.

in batting energy loss.
"Try walking up the stairs instead of taking the elevator or parking your car and walking to work," Kent says. "These things tend to increase your energy levels as opposed to something more sedentary like working on a computer."

Kent says there is a relationship between the body's reaction to direct sunlight and physical activity. Just as the body produces an energy draining hormone called melatonin when out of the sun, it produces an energy enhancing hormone in direct sunlight. This hormone, beta endorphin, is also produced when we exercise, so exercise may help compensate for the body's need for sunlight.

But Kent warns that because the air is so dry in the winter, active people often do not realize when they perspire, and consequently they don't drink enough water, which can also reduce energy.

Going to bed earlier, rather than sleeping in late, also increases energy levels, he says.

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## Question: What are your New Year's resolutions this year?



"To educate myself and in turn, get a better understanding of the oppression that I as a woman face everyday. Giving this a better commitment—a commitment to myself.... Do a lot of reading and examine my own oppressions and be able to name them and work with other women in my program."

Vivian (last name withheld on request) Community Services student, Nightingale



"To quit smoking for one and I'm a rock climber, so start training...and not to conform. My work is pressuring me to conform and I refuse...and get more piercings."

leff Morin

St. James

Human Service

Counselor student



"To produce the best balanced compost in my neighborhood...I want to grow some big flowers and basil."

Rose Bergeron.

French Immersion

Summer Program,

Director,

Kensington



"Resolutions aren't necessary, they need not be. They're only necessary if there is something to be resolute about, like people who need to quit smoking or who are over weight."

Val Pozzan Athletic Department Casa Loma

## Here's how to beat the mid winter blahs.

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Everyday exercise

Deanna Oliver, fitness coordinator in the college's Athletics Department and a world-dass tri-athlete, suggests that people do some physical activity every day. Walking, climbing, or riding a bike, allong with stretching and breathing exercises, helps to maintain higher energy levels, she says.

"They'll just have more energy so those little tasks aren't big tasks," says Oliver. "It also helps

keep stress levels down."

While exercise may be help battle the blahs, fitness experts warn against adopting a punishing exercise routine or joining a high priced health club in

"Every year in January we see a substantial increase in memberships," said Bill Emery, branch director for the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) at Spadina Avenue and Bloor Street, which offers George Brown students special membership arrangements.

Emery says that many people join fitness clubs around this time of year only to lose their motivation six weeks later

"You've got health clubs, with booths set up in malls, where you give them a cheque and you're on you're own," he said. "They've got as many people coming in the front door as they've got going out the back." The problem is that people strain themselves, Emery said. They go in January, pay a membership fee and start with high impact workouts, then they pull their muscles or worse, and never go back.

Emery suggests that anybody deciding to join a fitness club or start an exercise program should talk to a fitness consultant who can recommend a regimen that won't result in fitness burn out.

#### High carbohydrate diet

Now that you've finished that last box of chocolates and the remains of the turkey are safely ensconced in the freezer, it's a good time to look what you eat.

School of Hospitality nutrition teacher Kay Hamilton heartily endorses the recommendation of Canada's new Food Guide to eat "more plant food, fewer animal foods and get more exercise."

In other words, eat fruits, vegetables, grains and potatoes and less fatty meat and dairy products, she says.

"They're high carbohydrates, high fibre, low fat - that's what you want," she says. "That'll give you more energy, a better balance of energy, and just generally make you feel better. But that's not what we've done over the holidays."

The average person should consume five to 10 servings of fruits and vegetables daily, Hamilton says, and those looking to maximize energy levels should be consuming closer to 10.

An apple or a half a drink box of orange juice (four ozs.) is considered one serving, so a goal of 10 servings is easier to attain than you may think.

"Why not just drink more juice, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables?" Hamilton says. "It's not hard to do, but people just generally don't do it."

## **Registration by course**

Continued from page:

day courses. They could also compact their college education into shorter periods than currently required or extend them for years to mesh with job or family demands.

Right now full-time students at George Brown are registered by program rather than course, and many programs offer no electives or a limited selection. Continuing education students are currently registered by course, but cumulative records of their courses aren't kept by the college, and students themselves must collect course transcripts and apply for certificates.

The college is considering the type of registration system for post-secondary programs already used by most universities, says college Registrar George Burton. In these systems, students have to complete a number of required courses in one department but then can choose electives offered by other departments to earn their diplomas.

"We're going to move to a course-based system" he says, "(Currently) somebody in community services can't take a business elective."

The change in the registration method for post-secondary students allows the college to follow provincial government directions aimed at making college programs broader in content and more accessible.

To offer students a broader education, George Brown programs are likely to include a greater proportion of courses in general skills such as English and math, as well as more choice of courses in social sciences, arts, humanities and science.

The registration system also allows George Brown to start granting course credits to students for academic work they have done at other institutions or for non-formal learning such as on-the-job training.

This provincially-mandated program, called prior learning assessment (PLA), is scheduled to start at colleges across Ontario in September, 1994.

Under PLA rules, students

may be able to earn up to 75 per cent of a program's course credits through prior learning.

Beyond this major change in program organization, for which no implementation date has yet been set, the new computer system – called the student information system or SIS for short – is expected to greatly increase the efficiency of all student record operations, including the speed with which marks are issued – long a sore point with many students.

An institution of a similar size using a SIS system similar to the one that George Brown bought has reduced mark turn around time to two days by having teachers report marks on computer-readable forms, Burton says.

The SIS, which includes a program package called Banner made by American software design firm Systems and Computer Technology Corporation (SCT) and new hardware, will be gradually introduced at the college starting in January, 1995, Burton says.

The convenience of the software could free many staff from doing routine computer tasks.

"We spend too much time on mundane tasks and not enough on dealing with clients," Burton says.

Richard Rosen, George Brown's Acting Director of Information Systems, says the seven months spent last year deciding what the college's computer requirements are and reviewing systems for purchase will likely be paid back in a smoother introduction of the SIS in 1994.

"We decided to spend a disproportionate amount of time up front (choosing the system)," he says. "Every step has been taken to see that we meet the needs of the college."

The purchase of the system, which was approved by the college's Board of Governors in December, is likely to cheer many staff at the college who have had to work with computer systems that were cumbersome to use, and

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JAZZ GREAT AT CASA LOMA: It's always the same story. There's never a good piano technician around when you need one. That's what jazz great Oliver Jones told students in George Brown's Piano Technician program after he performed a lunch-time concert at Casa Loma in November. Every planist has specific needs, Jones told the students, and a technician's ability to understand those needs can easily effect the quality of a per formance. Oliver, who started playing professionally in the 1940s, has been called "Canada's greatest gift to jazz since Oscar Peterson".

# LEARN FRENCH IN QUEBEC This summer



Government bursary for students available for five-week program starting July 4

George Brown's Centre Français offers a unique way to learn French, explore life in Quebec and have a lot of fun this summer. The Centre's French Immersion program is held in the small town of La Pocatiere, 130 km, east of Quebec City. Some homestays are available. The bursary covers futition, books, materials and room and board.

For more information, call Rose, Nancy or Fred at 867-2435, or pick up an application form at campus libraries, SAC and admissions offices.

## **NEWS SHORTS**

## STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND HELPS AFTER CATASTROPHES

Casa Loma student loses his rent and food money to thieves. A St. James student is injured in a car accident and has to quit her part-time job. These students faced sudden, unanticipated catastrophes in the last year that could have ended their hopes of a college education - if it wasn't for the recently established student emergency fund, that is. The fund, which is administered by the college's Financial Aid office, has given these students, and others, non-repayable bursaries that helped them stay in college. The fund now needs to replace money given out and help more students. It's raising money with a raffle that has a top prize of \$1,000 cash or a year of college including tuition and other fees. The \$2 raffle tickets, which are being sold by both staff and students, can also be the key to a March break vacation in the sun, gourmet meals and many other prizes. The winning tickets will be drawn at a St. James pub on Feb. 10. The student emergency fund is sponsored by the Student Life Office and student administrative councils.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES TEACHER SITS ON LAW SOCIETY BOARD

or most of the month Nora Angeles-Richardson is concerned with some of our society's most powerless people – assaulted women and children – but for few days she rubs shoulders with the most rich and influential – lawyers. Richardson is a sessional teacher in George Brown's Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsclor/Advocate program and is also one of four "lay" (non-lawyer) benchers who help run the Law Society of Upper Canada. As part of the 44-member regulatory body, she helps set policy for Ontario lawyers as well as discipline them when they break the rules. Has being a bencher for the last three years affected her views of the practice of law? "I'm definitely a lot more critical of it now," she says. Richardson recently backed a plan for a women-only legal aid clinic that was rejected by the law society.

## HEALTH SCIENCES DEAN ELECTED TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS

dministrative staff at George Brown have elected Health Sciences dean Lynne Mulder to sit as their representative on the Board of Governors. Mulder won the Dec. 8 election handily with 39 votes – just less than half of the total votes cast. Steven Siblock of the Registrars' department came second with 28 votes, while Technology dean Jack McGee polled seven, and International Centre manager Bill George had six. Two-thirds of the college's 120 administrators voted in the election. Mulder will sit as a non-voting member on the Board from January, 1994 until August 1994, when she will begin a normal three-year term as a voting member. Academic staff, support staff and students also elect members to the Board of Governors, which is George Brown's highest decision-making body.

## TOP NURSING GRAD FINDS CASUAL WORK AFTER SIX-MONTH SEARCH

ntario's top 1993 nursing graduate has found some work after a sixmonth search and additional training. Karen Ross, who graduated from George Brown's three-year nursing program in the spring of 1993, started working in mid-November as a nurse in an intensive care ward of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. "Ye been getting pretty full-time hours," says Ross. "Hopefully something (permanent) will



come up." After unsuccessfully applying for work after passing the Ontario licensing exams with the highest mark in June, Ross took a post-diploma program in intensive care nursing at Ryerson Polytechnic University in the fall of 1993.

## FEB. 7 WILL BE A CHILI DAY, WITH ISOLATED POCKETS OF INTENSE HEAT

har's the weather forecast for inside George Brown's School of Hospitality, where the second annual Great Canadian Chili Contest will be held on Feb. 7. Two dozen two-person student teams are expected to compete —creating their own versions of the popular south-western spicy bean and beef stew. George Brown teachers and spice industry professionals will judge the entries and award prizes, including \$300 for the top chili. The public can sample the chilies after judging ends at about 2 p.m. by making a \$1 donation to the Student Emergency Fund. City College News will publish the winning recipe in a future issue.



LORD OF THE FRIES: Mohammed Aslam and his chip truck have been legally parking outside the main entrance to St. James Campus for the last year and a half. Now, after lobbying city hall by the college, he being forced to move a few feet east.

# College wins round one in bid to shift chip truck from campus door

A CHIP TRUCK HAS BEEN shooed away from the main entrance of St. James Campus after months of lobbying by college officials.

George Brown finally persuaded the City of Toronto late last year to move the permanent parking spot for the truck from its current location just outside the door on King Streef East.

The truck may be shifted one parking space east so it won't block the entrance in case of fire or other emergencies, according to Martin Kerman, George Brown's executive director of campus operations. While the city's decision may

annoy students and staff who now have to walk a few extra steps to get their hunch, it cheers college officials who say the truck is an eyesore that causes congestion, garbage and smells in and around the main entrance to the campus.

Academic staff representative Amy Thornton described the truck as a "huge monstrosity that we find offensive just in the way it looks," at the Dec. 6 Board of Governors meeting.

Kerman drew applause when told the meeting that there was a "political will" at city hall to move the truck starting in January.

The chip truck has been a thorn in the side of the college ever since its owner, Mohammed Aslam, rented the parking spaces from the city in 1992. It has been discussed repeatedly by the Board of Governors and committees dealing with campus planning.

Aslam, who pays the city \$600 a year for the parking spaces, says about 120 people from George Brown patronize his truck every weekday, buying french fries, sausages and soft drinks.

"I really appreciate being able to buy from the truck," says Human Services Counselor student Ann Hepburn, who was buying a soft drink at the truck in December. "Everyone seems to like his products."

Aslam says he collected the signatures of 800 students on a petition in the fall of 1993 supporting the presence of the truck.

He says George Brown's hostility towards the truck stems from his ability to take business away from campus vending machines and the cafeteria, particularly by undercutting the price of soft drinks.

Rob McNern of Versa Services, who manages George Brown cafeterias and vending machines, says that the chip truck has had little effect on sales. Versa's objections to the truck, which were also communicated to city officials, are that people will bring food from the truck on campus and also buy Versa food and then blame Versa if they become ill.

"Our biggest concern all along is that somebody is going to get sick," he says.

Aslam says his city health inspectors have visited his truck and approved his operation.

Versa will continue to oppose rental of parking spaces to Aslam when his current agreement expires, McNern says.

# Success Success

Nominate a college employee you feel deserves recognition for bis or ber contribution to the college or the community

# AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Awards are open to all full-time and parttime support, academic and administrative staff members. Any college employee or student may



nominate deserving individuals. Pick up an Awards information and nomination package at your Campus Manager's or Student Council office.

Do it soon! The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 4, 1994.



# CITY COLLEGE VIEWS

## LETTERS

## Centre for the Arts

To the Editor

When reading the November edition of City College News, one of the articles caught my eye and led me to believe something, which after investigating the facts proved not to be true.

The article in question was one referring to the appointment of Luke Rombout as the new dean of the Centre for the Arts. Contained in the article were somewhat detailed plans for the new arts centre.

These plans caught me and many of my constituents by surprise. We are in the midst of planning student centres for both Casa Loma and St. James and this article seemed to imply that the college's efforts are being put to building an arts centre and not the student centres, as we have been led to believe.

Naturally the people involved with the students centre were a little confused and, at first, a little angry. The feeling was of betrayal by the college and that, once again, student concerns were being put on the backburner

Concerned about the situation, I went to find answers.

Well, the answers were easy to find. When talking to the president of the college, John Rankin, he informed me that the art centre plans were not concrete and depended on the division raising money to build it. Sort of a dream, if you will.

In writing this letter, I had three points. I wanted to point out that the media is powerful and that if a story is written in even the slightest of misleading ways it can create a lot of problems. Secondly, the student centres are on track and being planned as we speak (look for an article in a future DIALOG). Lastly, I would like to point out that SAC as a whole supports the concept of an

arts centre and would assist in anyway possible in its creation.

Tim Kemp, Chair Student Executive Council

Editor's note: I suspect that every new building starts as a dream. The fact that planning is underway for an arts building isn't in question, but when the ground-breaking will take place for it is clearly another matter. The building in question, or at least some version of it, has been in various stages of planning for at least seven years. In fact, in the spring of 1988 George Brown's Board of Governors tentatively approved a plan to build an arts centre in the parking lot behind the School of Hospitality building to house theatre and dance programs. At that time the estimated cost of the arts centre was \$4 million, now it's \$25 million.

## Sexual awareness

To the Editor,

Thanks to SAC's excellent Sexual Awareness Week (Nov. 8-12), the silence at George Brown has been broken. The college is openly talking sex.

SAC's choice of topics for the event mirrored the varied issues of concern around human sexuality that confront our students. The week's activities included sexual orientation, homophobia, AIDS, child sexual abuse, violence against women, date rape and women's self defense. Two high-profile speakers were featured on the agenda: humorist Kevin Hughes and Toronto's Sex

With Sue (host), Sue Johanson. Tony Gambini and Krin Zook, social workers from the Toronto Board of Education's Human Sexuality program, aptly dealt with the issues of being a gay, lesbian or bi-sexual student in the educational system in Toronto, especially the homophobia they encounter. They stressed that too



Hospitality teacher **Peter Chiasson** shows winning form at a staff golf tournament in June, 1993.

much time and effort is being spent on the unanswerable question as to why someone is gay, rather than directing energy toward combatting homophobia which is pervasive throughout society. They concluded that when educational institutions take up the challenge of eliminating homophobia within their systems. they truly provide services and programs with excellence, fairness and respect. Congratulations SAC for a week of stimulating and provocative thought - a job well done. I look forward to SAC's next Sexual Awareness Week.

Clare McElroy, Chair, GBC Committee Against Homophobia

## Staff golf tournaments

To the Editor

Remember when the grass was green and the air was filled with that unmistakable fragrance of sweet meadows? Well, that was a time when some staff from George Brown made use of that yearly opportunity to participate in the George Brown College Golf Tournament, sponsored by the George Brown College Golf Club. The tournament took place on June 25, 1993, at the Glen Eagles Golf Club. As the participants will tell you, they were all winners, however, I will formally take this opportunity to recognize the low gross and low net trophy winners.

For the second time in as many years, the low gross winner was Peter Chiasson with a score of 76. The low net was won by Dan Blocka with a score of 71. Congratulations again to you both.

When I first began to organize the tournament, I pledged to you that it would get better every year. So, in the spirit of that pledge, I have proceeded to book this year's (1994) tournament at the Cardinal Golf Club, located on Highway 9 just east of Highway

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# Think carefully about raising tuition, college tells province in annual report

EVERY YEAR GEORGE BROWN submits a report to the Minister of Education and Training that outlines college directions and highlights current achievements and future challenges. In the following section of the 1993

COMMENT

Brown expresses views on some of the issues that affect the community college system as a whole

report, George

Tuition fees: George Brown supports a thoughtful and thorough review of tuition fees to ensure that students are paying an appropriate amount of their education. We believe, however, such a review must consider all dimensions of cost to students and the unique issues surrounding access to community colleges. Compared to university students, many college students are older, with significant debt already or obligations that prevent them from taking on significant debt. These factors should be taken into careful consideration.

Social Contract: In its last annual report, the college expressed support for systemwide restructuring, identifying it as a priority for the college system. With the advent of the social contract, we are concerned that attention not be distracted from that important work. So far, social contract negotiations have consumed a great deal of time and effort, and two years of the contract have yet to be negotiated. It is important that system wide, we separate the social contract from the issues of restructuring and that progress continues to be made on both fronts

Governance: We understand the Council of Regents is reviewing governance in the college system. We feel particular consideration should be given to the addition of another student governor. Students make up such a diverse population in community colleges today that it is difficult for one student representative to capture the range of student issues.

Student Needs: As restructuring progresses, a parallel process of data gathering on the needs of students is required so that a more client responsive system results. Although program content needs are analyzed system wide, there has been very little research done on adults who turn to colleges for retraining, and their needs in terms of delivery mechanisms. While some colleges are doing this locally - George Brown recently conducted surveys on its first year post-secondary, continuing education and apprenticeship students - we need a system-wide database to make sure that what we do in restructuring matches the needs of the clients now and in the future.

Ontario Training and

Adjustment Board: George Brown College supports the creation of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board (OTAB) and its recently announced governing

body. We continue to be concerned, however, about the role

that the community colleges will play in training in the province. The provincial government created the community college system in 1967 as an infrastructure to train and retrain adults in Ontario. Since then hundreds of millions of public dollars have been invested in the system. We believe it is in the best interests of the people of this province that the government - through OTAB - continue to make maximum use of that investment. In that respect we were encouraged to learn, in the provinces announcement on welfare reform, that colleges will be a primary deliverer of the JobLink program.

School-College Council: The college actively supports and is participating in the newly created School-College Council and its work on clarifying the respective roles of school boards and colleges in adult education. We believe a resolution in this area of education and training will help to diminate confusion for clients and increase the cost effectiveness of institutions.

Other areas of comment include federal/provincial relations, leadership and sectoral initiatives. Copies of the full 1993 Report to the Minister are available in college libraries. Copies of it have been sent to all staff.

## CITY COLLEGE **NEWS**

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## HERE'S HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

City College News wants you to have your say! If you're concerned about a topic, event or issue that you think will be of interest to students and staff at George Brown — put it down on paper. Write a letter or an article, or just suggest a story idea to us. Here's how you do it.

 Make sure your submission is legible (it can be typed or handwritten), keeps to the point, and is brief, if it's too long we may edit it for length as well as for grammar and spelling.

2.Sign your submission and include your full name, telephone number, address and some indication of your affiliation with the college (i.e., course name, job, etc.).

3. You may request that your name be withheld from publication. We will respect your request if you provide us with a reason.

4. We welcome anonymous story suggestions, news tips or other material; however, as in all cases above, City College News staff and its editorial board will make decisions about what will be published.

Keep a copy of what you send to us. We will not return unsolicited material, including photographs, unless we are provided with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

6.Drop off your submission in a sealed envelope at the mail slot in the information booths in the front lobby of 200 King St. E. at St. James Campus or the third floor entrance of 160 Kendal Ave, at Casa Loma, or send it by Canada Post or Internal college mail to:

Editor, City College News, Marketing Services Department, 200 King. St. E., Room 542E, George Brown College, Toronto, Ont. MSA 3W8 or fax it to (416) 867-2303.

The deadline for submissions and letters for our February Issue is Jan. 24.

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# GEORGE BROWN'S FIRST GREAT CANADIANS SYMPOSIUM

# Can colleges save Ontario?

For most of the last century Ontario was the powerhouse of Canada's economy. Now it's part of the rustbelt with quiet factories and lots of people with the outdated skills. **Historian Desmond Morton says** colleges now have a critical

The following is an edited transcript of a speech delivered by historian Desmond Morton at a symposium, entitled: The College Graduate: Satisfied Consumer or Educated Citizen, held October 22, 1993, about the values and direction of Ontario college system. Morton, the

keynote speaker, is the principal at Erindale College, University of Toronto and a writer on education-

"I want to talk about the past for good reason, because these are conservative times - maybe not Progressive Conservative times - but they are conservative. A conservative is a person, if you think about it, who thinks the past is better than the future. And there's a lot of good reasons to think that these days. Even New Democrats are pretty certain it was better in the past than it's going to be in the immediate future, and maybe forever.

I want to take you on a little time trip and I thought I'd drop you back to 1893.

This was a province that had been promised by the Conservative government of the day that through high tariffs there would be smoking chimneys, full dinner pails and, if John A. had known the phrase, jobs, jobs,

And indeed there were jobs for a time. There was municipal bonussing, tax holidays, free land, road and railway lines to bring business here - chiefly the branch plants of American firms. They came because our labor was cheap. Unions were almost unknown, if anyone tried to strike, there were plenty of others waiting for a job, and there were police and militia on hand to protect them. The national policy won John A. Macdonald 48 of Ontario's 92 seats in the '91 election.

Then afterwards (as sometimes happens after elections) a terrible depression struck the province. Factories closed, workers were hurled into the streets to



humiliation and hopelessness of a society with no unemployment insurance or any other benefits. Workers heading out to the farm met hundreds of farmers heading into the city.

The Liberal opposition, of course, knew why - the opposition always knows how to run the country. After all, the voters had been so stupid, they'd rejected free trade with the United States. There would have been jobs if there had been free trade, we know that of course, don't we?

Now there have been longer depressions than the 1890s and there have been deeper ones. People then remembered the 1870s, they'd been grim too. Later on the 1930s would last longer, but no recession, no depression was more important to this province than the 1890s.

I think, by coincidence, some developments in this province in the 1890s, in the depths of that depression, changed our whole view of how this place works.

What was hidden from people, nobody knew it, no historical record at the time even suggested it, was that changes were coming. Changes that made possible the long-distance transmission of electricity and its application to a host of uses, from the turbine to the telephone. It was in 1892 that J.P. Morgan put together General Electric and a Dutch syndicate organized Philips.

It was in the 1890s that Toronto investors and an army of

ing the hydro power of Niagara Falls. They called it

A hundred years ago this month, Henry Ford took his first primitive car out on a farm road near Detroit. A brand new automobile industry was about to be born and it would transform this

By the 1920s, Ontario was the second largest auto producing region in the world. Second largest. Canada was placed right after the United States. We aren't there now, but even today the auto industry is a quarter of Ontario's gross provincial product. All because of developments at the depth of the depression which were adapted to this region.

People changed. With the 1890s, people also began to realize that the only limitless resource in this province was the brains and the skills of its people.

There are three pillars to the prosperity of this province. Three pillars. There are three reasons why Ontario was and has been the greatest place to be in Canada. One of them is cheap, available energy: the white coal that I talked about. Another is location: we're located in the heart of the American Iron Triangle, the centre of their great manufacturing productivity. It was easy to spill across the border at Windsor and Niagara and to spill into southern Ontario. Finally we had a great source of

trained, skilled, energetic workers.

Now you know what's happened to those pillars. To describe them is to mourn their parting. We don't have cheap energy any more. Ontario Hydro is the second most expensive major electricity utility in North America. The Iron Triangle is now the Rust Belt, it's not a great location any more. What we do have, and what you represent, is the third and last pillar: our capacity to produce trained and educated workers and citizens.

Ontario is in trouble. The engine of Canada's economy has a loose bearing, an oil leak and fuel tank that is somewhere between a quarter and empty. Maybe there are other diseases

We don't have the great pride in our school system we once had and I think with reason. I think we specialized in giving students self esteem without excessive concern for the other things that

esteem. Since the students can spot phonies faster than adults certainly faster than they can master the quadratic equation - I think they're pretty disappointed with the results

The only way that high-wage economies can survive a global economy is by achieving high value added to the product That's simply an axiom. Barring the discovery of high-grade petroleum under the sands of Camp Borden, or natural gas under Queen's Park, the only source of value added that we could possibly mobilize is going to be high-grade skills. And that's not coming through the doors as often as it used to at Terminals 1,

So far as skills development is concerned, we're on our own in a way we weren't 100 years ago. Perhaps there will be a supplementary source from the relatively well trained and intensely ustrated people of Eastern Europe, but nowhere else is there a skill surplus and a dramatically lower standard of living than our own. That means, my friends, that you have to be the creators of that skilled, energetic, creative work force. You are going to be the arbiters of Ontario's future.

Everywhere I look, I see changes that favour people with

Continued on page 6



University of Toronto historian Desmond Morton speaking at the George

# Symposium asks: What's college for?

Despite demands by employers for technically proficient graduates, community colleges cannot lose sight of providing students with a broad-based education, a symposium on community colleges was told in October.

The symposium, called The College Graduate: Satisfied Consumer or Educated Citizen, brought together representatives from labour organizations, the business community and education, to discuss the values and direction of the community col-

Participants agreed that colleges must not simply create trained workers for the business community, they must also consider the students' hest interests by offering technical training while educating them as thoughtful members of society.

"(Colleges are) not about filling empty heads, I'd like to

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NO YOU CAN"T TAKE IT HOME!! - George Brown's husky dog mascot is mobbed at George Brown annual children's Christmas party in December at Casa Loma. Children and their families did crafts, walched some ballet and theatre, and were visited by Santa, who brought them all a present. The dog is also a here for helping George Brown stustes win a mascot contest at bar in Barrie in December. To win, the George Brown contingent had to cheer louder than their rivals from three other colleges. "We had at least 100 people there and they were all chanting GBC,GBC,GBC, says St. James student president Shaun Hudson.

# Historian wonders: Can colleges save Ontario?

continued from page 5

self discipline, practical skills and the ability to defer gratification to education. I don't know for sure whether you can or want to or will do some of the things that you have to, but I know no one else is in the position to do it.

Back in the 1960s, Canada was climbing into the second decade of post-war affluence. We were so rich back then that we could even cut back on having kids: the first luxury of the wealthy.

How did we get rich and how do we stay rich? Well, we set up an Economic Council of Canada, full of academics, naturally, and they told people the best way to get rich is to spend more money on education. Compared to spending money on colleges and universities and schools, there just wann't anything, not even investing in Cadillac Fairview or Campeau, that would earn you so much money.

Governments back then in the '60s rivaled each other in hiring teachers and building institutions. Incidentally, you should know and I hope you do, that the money they began raising from the Canada Pension Plan was passed back to the provinces and Ontario spent that money building 22 community colleges. Think about that when you think about collecting your CPP. Feel good about it now? Feel confident the investment is going to pay off?

The colleges were going to be the best investment that we made because they were going to be practical. They were going to draw their teachers from trades and professions. They were going to teach those people a little bit about teaching. They were going to liberate them on the students. And when they were tired of teaching, they were going to go back and make even more money at their old jobs.

Well, it didn't happen quite that way, did it? How many people went back to their old jobs? Most of them stayed. But the idea was a great one. It meant that teaching and learning would be on the forward edge of change. Sure, the universities might be stagnant pools of old information, passed on from yellowed lecture notes, the schools were pretty old fashioned, but the colleges would be on the forward edge.

Well, if it didn't happen, it's got to happen now. And it's going to be hard. It's going to be hard because the population is disillusioned with the investment proposals of the 1960s. You're disillusioned because you're tired. The students are disillusioned because it hasn't worked out the way they planned. The students also, unlike other customers, don't always have a strong sense of quality control, they don't always know what's going on in their education. Let me tell you that in my own place, and I can tell you because we try and do it, we know what a rotten job we're doing. One of my dismays has been that when we talk about cutting laboratory sections, maybe only marking the lab books every other week, I expect to get a student protest and you

know what I get: "Hey, that's great. Hey, we get time off, we can go get a job at Safeway." And if we cut back seminars, students don't complain, they say "Well that's good, I never liked standing up in public and speaking."

We're doing less for our brightest students and we're doing too little for the others, who will be, after all, the people who run the province.

Of course if anybody complains, we always blame the high schools.

We've tried in my place, and I know you have in yours, to reflect on what we're doing. To see if in ways that are open to us we can start doing better. We have close to 15 years of evaluation reports on teaching, collected twice a year. We've rejigged our reward system to try to make sure we reward those who are doing well, not simply by student evaluation, but by long-term results. We know increasingly how far from the goal we are. That's disappointing and discouraging, but it's the only way to find out how to get closer to that goal. We've learned that the issue is not teaching, it's learning. It's also addressing the issue of value-added.

I'm trying to figure out what difference we make because we're there, rather than if we weren't there.

This is also being addressed in the new buzz-word of the institutions, "accountability." Though we're trying to avoid it simply becoming a buzz-word, and become a standard of performance.

Our goal and yours is both to satisfy and to educate. In fact, they're probably fundamentally opposed.

I said earlier it's probably a wise idea to satisfy. There are more of them than there are us and they're going to be paying our pensions, in the meantime they might get nasty. But we also have to make them unsatisfied in a very real way, because none of us should be satisfied. Not one of us should be satisfied with the level of our own skill and our own education. If we can't convey a sense that there is so much more out there and in here than we can now offer, then we will have fundamentally failed.

We need consumers who are hungry for practice and selfimprovement. Who know from us that even our skills are imperfect, our knowledge incomplete, our experience not yet finished. If we're training citizens, we need to teach them to be questing and questioning and honest; but we teach them to be superficially arrogant and cynical, when they know so little that they have no right to be arrogant or cynical. We do that because we teach them with ourselves and our own examples. We're all engaged in an activi-

ty that is fatiguing and exasperating and more exciting and challenging than anything anybody else does in this society. We're in the business of changing people's lives. We've all had, I hope, the experience, an almost epiphany of an experience, when at some moment we've managed to awaken a mind or a talent or a potential, usually only in one student, maybe others, but you usually can't detect it in more than one or two at a time. When you've done that, when that moment has come, it makes up for so much else. Everything else that's miserable and frustrating and agonizing in our lives sort of fades to black and we begin to see what a privilege it's been to do our job. It's what makes so much else in our teaching lives bearable.

These are the days when – I don't want to annoy anybody in the union – but these are the days when you'd actually do it for nothing. Because it's so rewarding.

We can't transform Ontario or Canada by these single experiences, not by ourselves, but we can collectively. By making demands and by straining ourselves and our students to be the best that they can be and to know that there is still better if they keep trying. By challenging our own thinking, about our own teaching, about our own skills and our expertise By wanting, even when we're tired and exasperated, and content that maybe we can make it through to retirement, say to ourselves: this is the only life we've got and what a grand life it has to be. To know, and to know it without people telling you every day of your life, that you're doing the most important thing that this society can ask anyone to do. Because you're going to either be changing Canada for good, or for ill.

It's in your hands. It's in my hands and yours and all of our hands. Nobody's immune to that.

Let me tell you that no one will thank you for it. Not at the time. But the most exciting experience after that rare moment of transformation is talking to students later in life. and discovering that their lives were changed by a teacher, a college teacher, a high school teacher, too seldom a university professor, but that happens too in odd cases. Somebody who said to them, you can be more than you are and you can go on trying. It can be done. If we do it with a full commitment, we will change our lives and we will change history"



STAFF VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS - The Sparkies from Case Lorna won the college-wide staff volleyball championship in late November with a 15-8 win over the Basement Bombers. The Sparkies, who take their name from the Electrical Pepartment in the School of Science and Technology, were (from left) Fred Knittel, Roberta Oullahan, captain Al Poat, Doug Rowles and Gary Waters.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE - George Brown music teacher David Miller (left) plays cello in a string trio at the annual meet-The design of the George Brown College Seniors Association in December About 100 of the association is 600 members in a design of the George Brown College Seniors Association in December About 100 of the association is 600 members and the special college courses for seniors, go on trips, tours and other special events, have access to college libraries, and volunteer at George Brown.

# Registration continued from page 2

failed to meet their needs for fast and accurate information about

Primary among staff complaints has been the system bought seven years ago called Eden. Despite almost continual work on Eden by college staff and hired consultants the system never worked as planned.

The Board approval followed their rejection of a motion by support staff representative Wayne Chan to delay purchase of the system and study the possibility of having college staff develop software for a new system themselves,

Rosen previously told a Board committee that no comparable system was made in Canada and

dling fires," said Jim Turk, educa-

Federation of Labor. "We have a

responsibility to the community

tion director for the Ontario

as a whole?

that college development of a system wasn't economically feasible.

College president John Rankin says the system is an timely capital investment that is part of a larger plan to reduce the proportion of college revenue spent on overhead items such as computer operations and increase the proportion spent on education.

The purchase of the SIS has also been supported by George Brown's auditors who have had difficulty over the last two years confirming the college's tallying of the number of students it has registered because of the awkward systems used, Rankin says.

The semi-annual audit of both full-time and continuing education students is used as the basis for provincial funding - the college's single largest source of revenue.

We don't have a lot of options....This is not a luxury," Rankin says.

The SIS will operate collegewide from a computer at Casa Loma. When fully in use, about 600 people across the college will have access to the system for adding or collecting information about students.

Hospitality chair Dorothy Ellis, who sat on the committee which chose the system, says the SIS will save staff much of the time they now spend tracking down information in response to student ques-

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trained and educated workers and citizens. George Brown community

However, keynote speaker Desmond Morton, a historian and principal at the University of Toronto's Erindale College, said the ability of Ontario's college system to produce "trained, skilled and energetic workers" may be the province's last chance to regain its lost prosperity.

What is college for?

Once Ontario prospered, Morton said, with cheap, available hydro power from Niagara Falls and a prime location just off the iron triangle, the hub of American manufacturing. But this is no longer the case.

"We don't have cheap energy any more," he said. "Ontario Hydro is the second-most-expensive major electricity utility in North America. The Iron Triangle is now the rust belt, it's not a great location any more. What we do have and what you represent, is the third and last

pillar: our capacity to produce

services graduate Ioanne Mastrotucci gave an impassioned speech saving she resented being treated like a resource and rejected the notion of colleges and the business community acting in partnership to create efficient

"The problem with a partnership with business is that we are then very much at the whim of

the business community" she said Colleges train workers for a business community that is abandoning the province when higher profits are found elsewhere, Mastrotucci said

Other participants were Cathy Henderson, president of Centennial College and David Pratley, president of Communications Resource Group and chair of George Brown's Board of Governors. Patricia Groves, George Brown's academic vice-president, was the moderator.

## Letters

400, a 20 minute drive north of Toronto. Not only is the Cardinal Golf Club more centrally located and easier to access, it also offers mini-golf for those of you who would like to participate in a different way. More details to come.

It is my hope that more of you will be able to join us for this year's tournament which has been set for June 17, 1994. Circle this

#### continued from page 4

date on your calendar and make it a point to join us for a truly funfilled day. The all-inclusive fee (no liquor) for the tournament is \$75. Remember, it's never too early to sign up and I can be reached 698-2155. Cheques are payable to George Brown Golf Club

Tom Tomassi Casa Loma

# CITY COLLEGE CHEWS

# Hangovers:

Why you get them, what can you do?

FOR MANY PEOPLE THE last few hours of 1993 was a time of great celebration, and first few hours of 1994 was a time of equally great pain.

New Year's Eve is typically the night that launches a thousand resolutions.

many of them hangoverinduced vows to stop or limit drinking.

Not everyone suffers from hangovers, but among those who do - and few people who drink alcohol have missed them entirely some can think

of little else but curling up on the cold linoleum of the kitchen floor, wondering when it will go away and if there's anything they can do to speed the process.

Nyet on that last idea, says School of Hospitality mixology teacher Stephen Burr.

"Only time will get rid of the alcohol," he says. So unplug the phone, throw a pillow over your head, and try to sleep through it.

Of course not everyone can wait-out a hangover, but there are some preventative measures that can be taken

'Common wisdom says drink lots of water and take some Tylenols or aspirins before you go to bed," Burr said.

Here's why, Alcohol dehydrates your system and a hangover occurs when the loss of liquids causes the blood vessels in the back of your head to contract, Burr says. So by fighting dehydration, you can fight a hangover

He suggests drinking a large glass of water between every two or three drinks

Sometimes there is nothing to be done, Burr says. A hangover may creep up on you even though you've only had a few

drinks.

"If you're tense or in an uncom-fortable situation, you may suffer a hangover," Burr says. "If you're at your girlfriend's parent's house and you don't want to make a fool of yourself and you only have a few drinks, you still might wake up

There is always the most traditional of cures: the hair of the dog that bit you - another alcoholic drink.

"The most radical cure is have another drink," Burr said, "It doesn't really cure you, it just helps take the edge off."

One of the most popular dayafter drinks is the spicy Bloody Caesar. The Bloody Caesar is a true.

blue Canadian cocktail, a popular drink in Canada but not elsewhere since the essential clamato juice is not widely available. One thirsty Canadian traveler crossed California one summer looking for a bloody Caesar and found it only once, at a scafood restaurant in Monterey's Fishermen's Wharf.

Leave out the vodka and you still have a powerfully spicy drink that can open eyes and lead to a better, if not reformed, view of

# **Spicy Bloody Caesar**

## INGREDIENTS:

2 oz vodka (optional)

7 oz. or fill the glass with Mott's Extra Spicy Clamato Juice

3 dashes Tabasco sauce

Several dashes worcestershire sauce (to taste) pepper and salt

celery salt (optional)

1 table spoon white horse radish

1 stick of celery lime wedge

Bartenders usually put celery salt on the rim of the glass first, but with a hangover, this may not be a taste you desire. Build the drink by "Spicing the ice", that is: put lots of ice in highball glass and add Tabasco, worcestershire, salt and pepper. This is done first to assure getting the right level of spice and a smooth mix. Add in celery stick and vodka, then top up the glass with clamato juice. Add horse radish and mix. Finally add the lime wedge.



# JANUARY EVENTS

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan 4 - 20 - Italian lunches and dinners served in Slegfrieds dining room, in the Hospitality Building, 200 Adelaide St. E. Complete Italian meals. For specific dates call the dining room at 867-2260

Jan. 17 - Raffle '94. It can pay to help the Student Emergency Fund. First prize in this year's fundraising raffle is \$1,000 or a year at college paid for in full. Runner-up prizes also available including a trip to Florida, gourmet meals and much more. Tickets are \$2 and available through SAC and some staff members. For more information contact your campus SAC office.

Jan. 24 - Women's Culinary Network will hold a meeting in the Hospitality Building, 300 Adelaide St. E. in room 112. Speakers will be Lynn Crawford, the Four Seasons Hotel sous chef; Heather Trim, consultant and food editor, Modern Woman Magazine; Cynthia David, George Brown graduate and food editor, The Toronto Sun: and Ladka Sweeney, in charge of product and development for Dominion Stores' Masters Choice product lines. For more information call 867-2239.

Jan 27 - Gala fundraising dinner for the Italian Culinary Arts Program to help send students for training in Italy. In Siegfried's Dining Room in the School of Hospitality building, 300 Adelaide St. E. Reception at 6 p.m., dinner to follow. Opera and classical guitar performances and appearances by members of the Story Teller School of Toronto. Tickets: \$75, includes five course meal with wine and entertainment. Charitable receipts available.

Jan. 28 - Library Open House at Casa Loma and St. James. Tour the new and reorganized facilities, see demonstrations, have refreshments and perhaps win prizes. Libraries are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Feb. 5 - Approximately 600 students will participate in Winter Convocation, 1 p.m., at the Metro Convention Centre (Bassett Theatre), 255 Front St. W. The keynote speaker will be Cosmo Mannella, member

of George Brown's Board of Governors and Director of Apprenticeship Training and Rehabilitation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Jan 18 to Feb. 9 -There will be food tastings in the Atrium of the Hospitality building, 300, Adelaide St. E. between 12 and 1 p.m on the following dates:

Jan. 18 - Loblaw's sauce tasting

Ian. 19 - Milk chocolate tasting

Jan. 26 - Cookie tasting

Feb. 1 - Donut tasting Feb. 1 - Coffee tasting

(11:30 a.m. to 1 p.in.) Feb. 2 - Hot Dog tasting

Feb. 8 - Dim Sum tasting

Feb. 9 - Ice Cream tasting

## (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

## **UPCOMING**

Feb. 28 - March 3 -Celebrating Diversity Week at George Brown. This special week, sponsored by College Council, features daily events. The week kicks off with an international buffet lunch at Seigfried's Dining Room on Feb. 28 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets for the lunch, which cost \$4, will be available in the School of Hospitality Building and from all campus student administrative council (SAC) offices on Feb. 14. All proceeds to the International Student Network. On March 1. Casa Loma will host Diversity in Athletics with games, displays and exhibitions in the gym and cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On March 2, a labour fair will be held at St. James Campus with displays and booths from many labour unions and organizations from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The labour fair is sponsored by the School of Labour and Locals 556 and 557 of the Ontario Public Service Employees

#### ENTERTAINMENT

Union

Jan. 27 - Camp Zu Pub in the St. James student lounge with comedian Simon B. Cotter, for more information and times, call the SAC offices 867-2454.

Feb. 3 - Camp Zu Pub with Mamakin, See above,

Feb. 10 - St. Valentines Day Pub from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m in the student lounge at 200 King St. E. There will be games and entertainment all night long including blackjack, penny games, and a computer dating service. Special draws will be held for ticket holders in the Student Emergency Fund draw and major prizes in Raffle '94 will be drawn at 10 n.m.

### **SPORTS AND** RECREATION

Jan. 21 - Women's Basketball. Jamestown City College (Buffalo, NY) at George Brown, St. James campus at 6 p.m.

#### MEETING

Jan. 19 - Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave.. boardroom, 8:30 a.m.

Jan. 25 - Human Resources Committee, of the Board of Governors, 500 MacPherson Ave., boardroom, 5 p.m.

Jan. 25 - Finance and Property Committee of the Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave., boardroom, 12:30 a.m.

### **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES**

Jan. 18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christianity

Jan. 19 - Sultan, Baha'i

Jan. 19 - Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Sikhism

Jan. 23-30 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Canada), Christianity

Jan. 26 - Nisfu-Shahaan, Islam Feb. 7 - Mulk, Baha'i

## **EVENT** LISTINGS

If you have, or know of, an upcoming college event that is open to students or pen to students or laff it can be listed in this column. Just follow the directions in the lave Your Savi Have Your Say" box on page 4, and pay particular attention to the deadline.

# IT CAN PAY TO HELP THE STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND



affle '9 1st Prize \$1,000 cash or a year at college\*

Other prizes include a week in Florida, Free Continuing Education Courses (excluding material fees), Career Assessment Package from the Career Development Centre, Comedy Evening at Yuk Yuk's, Dinner for 4 at Siegfried 's, a gourmet dinner prepared and served at your home by George Brown hospitality students, plus many, many more

All proceeds from this raffle help George Brown students who face unforeseen financial crisis.

## Tickets \$2.00, Draw to be held February 10, 1994

THE STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND IS SPONSORED BY THE STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

AND STUDENT SERVICES OF

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

This prize option, which includes George Brown post-secondary tuition and activity fees, \$300 for books and supplies, and a \$50 gift certificate : is available only to accepted students for the 1994/95 academic year and excludes material fees and international student premiums.

## GOT A GRIPE AT 2 A.M.?

Give City College News a call on its new 24-hour comment line

Do you have an opinion about George Brown or college that you'd like to share with our readers? Give us a call at 867-2279 and leave a message up to five minutes in length. We'll transcribe your call and publish it in the next issue of City College News as a letter. Don't forget to add (and spell) your name and your phone number.